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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY

NEWS-LETTER

OF

THE

OFFICE OF CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT
INVESTIGATIONS.

Volume I,

No. 2,

May 1,

1913.

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The Agricultural Appropriation Bill as passed by the 62d Congress contains the following clause: "For investigations of insects affecting cereal and forage plants, including insects affecting wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, alfalfa, clover, and so forth, \$90,000, of which amount not to exceed \$10,000 shall be expended for the investigation of the range caterpillar."

Mr. W. R. Thompson, who is collecting parasites of the alfalfa weevil in Southern Europe, has been having remarkable success and has been able to despatch to this country approximately 33,370 more or less heavily parasitized egg masses of the weevil within alfalfa stems. He is ably assisted by Dr. Martelli and others. All consignments are being received at Salt Lake City in excellent condition and are being cared for at that point by Mr. Timberlake.

An exportation of Aphidius testaceipes, parasitic on Toxoptera graminum, has been carried out. This parasite was reared in great numbers by Mr. Urbahns at Glendale, Cal., where the material has been accumulating for several months. As fast as the parasitized Toxoptera became excessively abundant, the leaves of grain on which they were established were collected and placed in cold storage. The consignment was started April 12 on its long journey to British East Africa, where the tiny voyagers will be cared for and if possible colonized in the wheat fields by the government entomologist, Mr. Thos. J. Anderson.

Writing from Lakeland, Fla., under date of April 13, Mr. Geo. G. Ainslie states that the fall army worm is gradually becoming more abundant as the season advances, although it is heavily parasitized.

Dr. S. A. Forbes, State entomologist of Illinois, reports encouraging success in protecting corn from chinch bugs by spraying with a solution of 3 ounces of flour, 1 ounce of hard soap, and 2 gallons of water. This seems to kill the bugs and of course does not affect the corn. Try this on chinch or other bugs and report results, to be transmitted to Dr. Forbes.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions in the Department of the Interior, under the authority of the President, and who have taken the oath of office and qualification.

1. Secretary of the Interior, Mr. John D. Smith.
2. Assistant Secretary, Mr. John D. Smith.
3. Chief of Bureau, Mr. John D. Smith.
4. Chief of Division, Mr. John D. Smith.
5. Chief of Office, Mr. John D. Smith.

6. Chief of Division, Mr. John D. Smith.
7. Chief of Office, Mr. John D. Smith.
8. Chief of Division, Mr. John D. Smith.
9. Chief of Office, Mr. John D. Smith.
10. Chief of Division, Mr. John D. Smith.

11. Chief of Office, Mr. John D. Smith.
12. Chief of Division, Mr. John D. Smith.
13. Chief of Office, Mr. John D. Smith.
14. Chief of Division, Mr. John D. Smith.
15. Chief of Office, Mr. John D. Smith.

The Range Caterpillar Investigations in New Mexico will be temporarily under the supervision of Mr. V. L. Wildermuth with a corps of men to be brought together as soon as possible. Mr. Wildermuth has already made a preliminary survey of the infested territory with a view of beginning work as soon as the larvae commence to hatch from the eggs.

Much difficulty has heretofore been experienced in transporting living material, especially larvae and pupae, from the field to the office, so as to reach its destination in shape for illustrating. Mr. Urbahns has just succeeded in getting live larvae and pupae of Bruchophagus funebris through from California in perfect condition by placing them singly between small 1 X 3 inch strips of 1/8-inch cork, in cavities hollowed out in one of the pieces of cork. The two pieces of cork can be fastened to fit tightly together. There seems to be no danger from lack of moisture and no excess of the same. Try this as opportunity offers with eggs or such objects as will not eat their way out.

Second in importance to careful accurate field investigations is the placing of the details and results thus obtained on record in clear, concise language, eliminating repetitions and superfluous words or explanations which are always more or less confusing and lead to error. When one comes to the office to prepare manuscript for the printer he quickly becomes aware of the importance of this feature of our work; but not all of the force have had this training.

All notes go to the credit of the observer. It sometimes happens that he is out of reach, perhaps out of the country, when the information given in his notes is used in manuscript, and it is of the utmost importance to himself as well as to the Bureau that his statements be clear and accurate as well as complete, and it is a matter of personal as well as official justice that they be so.

It is a failing among good investigators to dislike the tedious duty of writing up results after they have been obtained, but results are of little value if they can not be made both reliable and readily available for the use of others, whether their interests be scientific or economic. Prepare your notes exactly as you want them to be understood by others and never leave editing to be done in the office. No one, no matter how able, can do justice to himself or any one else in writing up the work of another, unless he can know with certainty just what that worker himself wished to say.

Mr. H. M. Russell is slowly recovering his health at Tempe, Ariz., and will go on duty there about May 1.

Mr. A. B. Gahan, recently of the Maryland Agricultural College, will begin his work with us, as specialist in parasitic Hymenoptera, May 15, superseding Mr. Viereck, who recently resigned from the Bureau.

Mr. E. G. Smyth, for several years attached to the Station at Brownsville, Tex., has resigned to accept a similar position in Porto Rico.

An interesting letter has just been received from Mr. George R. Smith, who was formerly with the Salt Lake, Utah, Station, but who resigned to accept a position with the Government of Argentina.

Mr. A. F. Satterthwait, Harrisburg, Pa., has been appointed as an expert in Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations and will go on duty at La Fayette, Indiana, assisting Mr. Davis in *Lachnosterna* investigations.

Mr. J. R. Malloch has prepared a revision of the dipterous genus *Agromyza* which will be preprinted in the September Number of Annals of the Entomological Society of America. The same author is engaged on a revision of the *Oscinidae*.

Mr. T. H. Parks, who has been in charge of the Station at Greenwood, Miss., since its establishment last autumn, has resigned to accept a position in Idaho. Mr. Parks will make a faithful officer wherever he goes and he will take with him the best wishes of this section of the Bureau.

Numerous observations have been made during April on the condition of the fall army worm, from which, as will be seen, it is exceedingly doubtful if the species winters north of the latitude of Florida.

Mr. W. B. Hall, Wakeman, Ohio, gathered a large number of pupae last fall and placed them in the ground, but not a single individual appears to have survived. Mr. W. J. Phillips, who visited South Bend, Ind., on April 18, could not find a single live pupa; all were dead. Those that were being carried through at La Fayette, Ind., also perished.

No trace of live pupae of *Laphygma* has been found at Chillicothe, Mo., where fields of young fall wheat were destroyed last fall.

Mr. Luginbill states that while moths were observed at Columbia, S. C., the latter part of November, so far as his observations have gone the species does not winter over at that point. He states also that Dr. Hinds informed him that the same conditions applied to Alabama, presumably in the vicinity of Auburn.

Thus we have, so far, no definite proof that *Laphygma frugiperda* survives the winter north of Florida and southern Texas.

COPYUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Division of Accounts and Disbursements,

Washington, D. C. , April 21, 1913.

Dr. L. O. Howard,
Chief, Bureau of Entomology.Sir:
This office is in receipt of the following letters:
"Chicago, April 15, 1913.Mr. A. Zappone,
Chief of Division of Accounts and Disbursements,
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.Dear Sir:
Every month this Company receives a great many U. S. Dept. of Agriculture transportation requests drawn in favor of some railroad Co., for Pullman accommodations. As it is necessary for this Company to forward the requests to the different Railroad Companies for waivers before same can be billed, thereby causing a great deal of unnecessary correspondence, it is requested that you kindly take the necessary steps to have requests for Pullman accommodations drawn in favor of The Pullman Co. in all cases, and oblige,

(Signed)

Yours truly,
L. M. Bradish,
Auditor of Receipts."

Washington, D. C., April 17, 1913.

Disbursing Clerk,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.Dear Sir:
The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Co. advises that for some time past it has been receiving from the Pullman Company a considerable number of Department of Agriculture requests which have been drawn on the Santa Fe Co. for Pullman transportation. Recently the number of such requests has been increasing, and as the matter involves much extra labor and accounting for proper adjustment we will appreciate it if your office will issue the necessary instructions to all Bureaus of the Department, requesting that requests for Pullman transportation be drawn upon the Pullman Company.

(Signed)

Very respectfully,
Britton & Gray,
Attys. A.T. & S. F. Ry. Co."

"April 22, 1913.

Memorandum for Professor Webster:

I enclose herewith copy of communications referring to the use of transportation requests for Pullman accommodations. Please bring this matter to the attention of the employees of your branch.

(Signed) R. S. Clifton,
Executive Assistant."

